

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR/Iran	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Soviet Military and Naval Activity Along Iranian Border	DATE DISTR.	20 April 1953
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Soviet Frontier Activity

1. Commanders of the first class frontier posts of Soviet Azerbaydzhan, including Lenkoran (N 38-45, E 48-50), Parshib, Jebrayil, and Nakhichevan (N 39-12, E 45-24), have been summoned to Baku for consultation. In their absence, their assistants are managing the affairs of the respective posts.
2. Major YALKIN, a cavalry officer, is commander of the Astara area frontier guard, which includes the frontier posts of Alachai (N 38-27, E 48-47), Mahalleh, Qermezi-Post, Korpi-Post, Anuz, Rudsar, and Reza-Baghi. He arrived in Astara on 24 October 1951, to replace Major SHERBAKOV. His credentials were issued from Moscow on 15 January 1952. Previous to this assignment, YALKIN was commander of the Parshib frontier post and held the rank of Captain. During World War II, YALKIN served at the battle fronts of Odessa, Kerch, and Stalin-grad. He is a native of Ariol, is married, and has two daughters and one seven-year-old son.
3. Recently (prior to August 1952), a group of Soviet engineers and high-ranking army officers have been inspecting the frontier bridge of the Astara-Chay river. They checked the width and capacity of the bridge, as well as its structure.
4. There has been an increase in construction and repair work on military and civil airports, railroads, and highways. A new military road has been constructed from Baku to Lenkoran which extends toward the mountain pass of Heyran (N 38-26, E 48-36). This road will make it possible for soldiers to go from Baku to the Namin district (N 38-26, E 48-30) without going through Astara and Anuz.

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5. Several storehouses and kerosene depots have been built in various places in the southern part of Soviet Azerbaydzhan. Trucks from Baku bring kerosene daily to these depots located near the frontier villages of Anguran, Archevan, Rayon Tapeh-sar, Rayon Ali-seyfi, and Astara.

Soviet Military and Naval Activity

6. There has been no increase in the size of Soviet military units stationed along the frontier of Soviet Azerbaydzhan. The size of the units in the frontier village of Kalaputi (N 38-48, E 48-25), and in the Arshaq and Qanni-Bulagh rural districts, has been reduced, and between 200 and 300 cavalry horses have been transferred from this area to Baku.
7. All the recruits from Soviet Azerbaydzhan now receive their military training at Salianskaya Voyennaya Shkola (Military School of Salian).
8. Since 29 July 1952, 9 naval vessels equipped with machine guns and anti-aircraft guns have been patrolling the Caspian in the vicinity of Astara and Lenkoran. Each of these vessels has a crew of between 14 and 18 men, of which approximately 6 are sailors and 12 are marine guards. Each vessel has a capacity of between 500 and 1000 tons. Their usual procedure is to approach the shore at approximately 7 p.m. for messages or packages. Between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. they anchor 200 meters off the Lenkoran shore. Their base is located between Salian and Lenkoran.

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